



# Culpeper County Library

The Culpeper County Library offers Storytimes on Tuesday mornings. We have 4 toddler classes (2-3 year olds) and 2 pre-school classes (3-5 year olds, who attend on their own). Our first session will begin September 14 and run through October 19. All available slots are usually filled by the end of the first day, so be sure to mark your calendar. You must register in person.

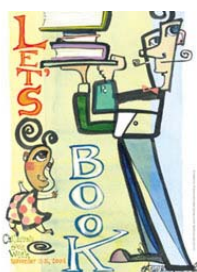


Registration for the second session is November 2.  
The session will run from November 9 to December 14.

Bedtime Storytimes are walk-in events that begin at 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday between Sept 7 and December 14.



**New this fall!!!** We begin a pilot program of a walk-in Storytimes on Friday mornings from 10:30 - 11:30, starting September 10 and running until December 17 (except for the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 26, when there will be no Storytime). The Friday Storytime will feature songs, fingerplays, and a book or two, with activity and craft sheets children may take home.



## Children's Book Week is November 15 - 21

Check our newsletter or website at <http://tlc.library.net/culpeper> for special events during that week to celebrate Children and the Books they love.

## Library's Gone to the Dogs!

Children learning to read may feel self-conscious reading in front of other people. Reading to a dog can help them practice their skills! If your child would benefit from this opportunity, come to the library's *Gone to the Dogs* program. The Welcome Waggers and their Certified Therapy Dogs will be there to lend a helping paw. Fall dates are September 25, October 30, and November 20.





## Culpeper County Library (*continued*)

### Volunteers Needed for Library's Children's Programs

We could sure use some extra helping hands for the Bedtime (Tuesday, 7 p.m.) and Friday walk-in (10:30 a.m.) Storytimes. If you are interested, please contact Susanna Spencer at 825-8691.

**Don't forget Dial-a-Story at 825-0555. It's free.  
The stories change each week, so be sure to call often.**



The Library is proud to present our most recent addition. Wi-Fi or wireless Internet service for the public is available for anyone with a wireless connection to their laptop or PDA. The library has had a T-1 since we opened in 1998.

## Friends

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

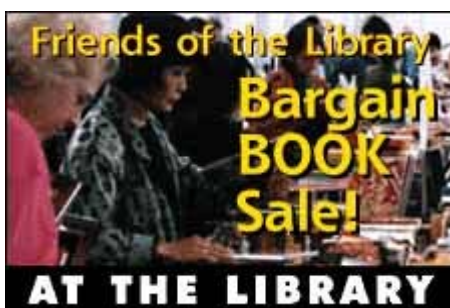
#### BOOKSTORE HOURS:

**Monday: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**



You will find books and related materials for all ages and interests. Our prices are truly a bargain. Also, look over our offerings on the bookstore shelf, located to the right, as you enter the Library. Donations of new or used books are accepted during all regular library hours. If you would like to volunteer, please call Jean Harris at 829-4950.

While you're in the book store, take a close look at the Friends canvas book bags - so convenient and only \$6.00. We recommend them for carrying home all the great used books you'll be buying. Most of the books are \$.50 for hardbacks and \$.25 for paperbacks.

### Antique and Collectible Books Available at the Friends Used Book Store

At this time, we have a number of books which should be of interest to those who enjoy antique and collectible books. Some are single works and some are in sets.

We research each book to determine the current value, and then set a very reasonable price on the book. Our goal is to find good homes for these special editions. We encourage the public to visit the book store to see what we have available.



## Culpeper County Library (*continued*)



Support the Summer Reading Program and other library activities by sponsoring a leaf on the Giving Tree located in the Meeting Room at the Library. Your tax deductible gift includes a four line inscription of your choice. Applications may be picked up at the Circulation Desk.

**Third Thursday Book Discussion Groups** meet the Third Thursday of each month to discuss various books. You are welcome to try out these groups which meet the third Thursday at 10:00 and 7:00. A list of selected books for 2004-2005 discussions are available at the Circulation Desk.

### “CAN YOUR FINES”

From November 14 to December 14 you may “**CAN YOUR FINES**” by bringing in one can of food for each overdue fine, and that overdue fine will be forgiven. Patrons with a previous fine on their records may bring in one can of food per fine, and the charge will be forgiven. All proceeds go to the Community Christmas Basket Program to help local families for the Holidays. Monetary donations may be made in lieu of a canned item.



(This will not include Collection Agency accounts)



### *HeritageQuest Online:*

*The Library has available a “unique, growing collection of research materials for tracing family history and American culture.” Amateur or professional genealogists may now use this “powerful online library, with original page images for all documents,” either at home or at the Library.*

*Simply go to our homepage and link up!*

***Sunday hours begin again September 12 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
just in time for school! Look below for some great  
Homework help sites.***

***Go to [tlc.library.net/Culpeper](http://tlc.library.net/Culpeper)***

***and look at our home page on the bottom right or click on site index,  
then click on any of the great links we have set up for kids.***

***Try homework help for any number of sites to help you get through the year.***

## Culpeper County Library

271 Southgate Shopping Center

<http://tlc.library.net/culpeper>

540-825-8691

**REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION**

PLANNING DISTRICT #9

CULPEPER, MADISON, ORANGE & RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTIES

Many adults who did not complete a high school program of instruction have continued to learn through a variety of experiences encountered in everyday life. The purpose of the GED Testing Program is to provide an opportunity for these individuals to have the learning acquired from such educational experiences evaluated and recognized. The GED Tests make it possible for qualified individuals to earn a high school credential, thus providing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of adults to:

- Pursue higher education
- Obtain jobs or job promotions
- Achieve personal goals

**WHAT ARE THE GED TESTS?**

The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests) are internationally recognized. They have been designed to measure major academic skills and knowledge in core content areas learned during four years of high school. When an adult passes the 7 ½- hour battery of GED Tests, the resulting GED credential certifies that he or she has attained subject matter knowledge and skills associated with high school completion. The GED Tests include the following subject area tests:

- Language Arts, Writing
- Social Studies
- Science
- Language Arts, Reading
- Mathematics

The GED Tests are offered in English and Spanish editions.



Start Your  
Education and  
Start Your Engines  
for a  
Better Job!

**G. W. Carver - Piedmont Education Center  
GED Testing Schedule for 2004  
Denise S. Vogt, Chief Examiner**

(August 23, 2004: Make Ups: 7:00-10:00 p.m.)  
August 27 & 28, 2004  
September 10 & 11, 2004  
(October 18, 2004: Make Ups: 7:00-10:00 p.m.)  
October 22 & 23, 2004  
November 12 & 13, 2004  
December 3 & 4, 2004

Effective June 1, 2004, all test takers must be assessed prior to signing up for the GED test. This assessment is free and is given the first Thursday of each month. Registration is required.

Is there a particular class you would like to have offered locally? Please give us a call with your suggestion.

To offer a class, it is essential to have a group of 5 or more individuals interested in the same subject.

Let us hear your ideas. When we have a firm commitment of 5 people, we will contract a teacher to teach the class.

Space is available for day or evening classes.

**Please contact Margaret A. Buraker, Regional Director at (540) 825-0476**

REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION (continued)

Register for Adult Classes in your area for **GED** Preparation, or work on your reading, writing and math skills.  
Call for information. **Regional Adult Education** (540) 825-0476

- Carver Center GED** - 9 a.m.-noon/Wed. & Fri.

G.W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center, 9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA
- Culpeper GED** -5:30-8:00 p.m./ Tues. & Thurs.

Culpeper Literacy Council, 501 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA
- Culpeper Literacy Council GED** -9:00 a.m.-noon/Mon. & Wed.

501 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA
- Culpeper/Rappahannock ESOL**-English As A Second Language

6:30-9:00 p.m. /Tues. & Thurs.
- Culpeper Career Resource Center, 219 E. Davis Street, Culpeper, VA

& Culpeper Depot, 113 S. Commerce St., Culpeper, VA
- GED Fast Track**-5:30-8:30 p.m./ Mon. & Thurs.

G.W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center, 9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA
- Regional TFL**-5:30-8:00 p.m./ Mon. & Thurs.

G.W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center, 9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA
- Madison GED**-6:00-8:30 p.m./ Tues. & Thurs.

Madison Literacy Council, Thrift Rd. Old School Board Bldg., Madison, VA
- Gordonsville GED**-6:30-9:00 p.m./ Mon. & Wed.

Gordon-Barbour Elem. Library, 500 W. Baker St., Gordonsville, VA
- Orange GED**-6:30-9:00 p.m./ Tues. & Thurs.

Orange County High School, Room #136, 201 Selma Rd., Orange, VA
- Orange/Madison ESOL-English As A Second Language**/ 7:00-9:00 p.m./Mon.

Orange Presbyterian Church, 162 W. Main St., Orange, VA
- Rappahannock GED**-7:00-9:00 p.m./ Mon. & Thurs.

Rappahannock County Library, 4 Library Rd., Washington, VA

Enrollment for Classes at G. W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center

TUITION REQUIRED IN ADVANCE

Make check or money order payable to: Orange County School Board

Detach and return with payment to: Office of Continuing Education, GWC-PEC, 9432 James Madison Hwy., Rapidan, VA 22733.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Name

City

State

Zip Code

Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me in the following classes:

<u>Class Name</u>	<u>Day (Circle One)</u>				<u>Time</u>	<u>Cost</u>
_____	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	_____	_____
_____	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	_____	_____

Method of Payment: M.O. \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

**REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION**  
**George Washington Carver-Piedmont Education Center**  
**9432 James Madison Hwy., Rapidan, VA 22733 - Telephone (540) 825-0476**  
**FALL 2004 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

Codes: Piedmont - P      Madison County High School - M      Orange County High School - O

**COMPUTER CLASSES**

CLASS	DAY/SITE	BEG/END	SESSIONS	TIME	FEE
Computers for Seniors	TH/P	10/7-11/4	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Computers for Seniors	TH/P	11/11-12/16	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Front Page 2002	TH/P	10/7-11/4	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Internet I	M/P	10/4-11/1	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Internet I	T/O	10/5-11/2	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Internet II	M/P	11/8-12/6	5	6:00-8:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Introduction to Computers	M/P	10/4-11/1	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Introduction to Computers	M/P	11/8-12/6	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Keyboarding I/Typing	M/P	10/4-11/1	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Keyboarding II/Typing	M/P	11/8-12/6	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Access I	TH/P	10/7-11/4	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Access I	TH/P	11/11-12/16	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Access II	TH/P	11/11-12/16	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Excel I	TH/P	10/7-11/4	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Excel I	TH/P	11/11-12/16	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Excel II	TH/P	11/11-12/16	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Power Point	TH/P	10/7-11/4	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Power Point	TH/P	11/11-12/16	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Word I	T/P	10/5-11/2	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Word II	T/P	11/9-12/7	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Windows	M/P	10/4-11/1	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Windows	TH/P	11/8-12/6	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00

**ADDITIONAL CLASS OFFERINGS**

Beginning Astronomy	TBA/P	TBA	1	8:00 P.M.	FREE
Conversational Spanish I	M/P	10/4-12/6	10	6:00-8:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Conversational Spanish II	M/P	10/4-12/6	10	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Financial Planning					
Workshop for Individuals	M/P	10/4-11/1	5	7:00-8:30 P.M.	FREE
Fundamentals of Woodworking	W/M	10/6-12/1	8	6:00-9:00 P.M.	\$100.00
India/Pakistan Cooking	M/P	10/4-11/1	5	6:00-8:00 P.M.	\$60.00
Personal Safety					
& Violence Prevention Course	TH/P	TBA	2	6:00-8:00 P.M.	FREE
Personal Safety					
& Violence Prevention Course	TH & MP	TBA	2	6:00-8:00 P.M.	FREE
Personal Weight Management	M/P	10/4-11/8	6	6:00-7:00 P.M.	TBA
Photography I	TH/P	10/7-10/28	4	7:30-9:00 P.M.	\$50.00
Photography II	TH/P	11/4-12/16	6	7:30-9:30 P.M.	\$70.00
Regional Gardening	TH/P	10/7-11/11	6	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$85.00
Russ-bottom	TH-P	10/7-11/4	5	6:30-8:30 P.M.	\$60.00
Stained Glass Stepping Stone	TH/P	10/7-10/21	3	6:30-8:30 P.M.	\$50.00
Quilting	M/P	10/4-11/22	8	6:00-8:00 P.M.	\$80.00

# Culpeper Career Resource Center

Since 1996, the Culpeper Career Resource Center has been assisting local citizens in their efforts to find fulfilling employment. A division of Culpeper Human Services (CHS), the Center offers job-seekers a variety of resources: computers equipped with high-speed Internet access; free access to telephones and a fax machine; and up-to-date job listings from across the region.

Along with its satellite center in Orange, the Culpeper office assists the community by providing computerized personality evaluations designed to assess a client’s strengths and determine what potential careers best suit him or her. It also provides Culpeper residents with convenient access to Germanna Community College’s placement testing.

The Culpeper Career Resource Center’s close ties to Human Services make it a gateway of sorts for citizens who qualify for CHS’ assistance programs. Those in need of employment, childcare, and other necessities enter the doors of the Center every week – Monday through Friday. Their stories are ones of great struggle and selfless love; they seem extraordinary, yet they are shared by nearly every man and woman who enters the Davis Street office. Here are two of those stories.

### Denise Pritt—gains a career in Cosmetology

Denise Pritt has faced more challenges than most can imagine. She has been abandoned, abused, and poverty-stricken. But the Culpeper resident possesses an indomitable spirit. With the assistance of CHS, she has found a job and a new sense of purpose.

Pritt confesses that, when she arrived in Culpeper in 1992 she was far from confident. The Fauquier-born woman was placed into foster care at the age of five and would remain in that system until she turned 18. A ten-year marriage gave her four children but ultimately ended in divorce.

Pritt was left alone to care for her daughters. She and the girls moved throughout northern Virginia, where Pritt bounced from job to job. She could find neither adequate employment nor a healthy environment for her children. “Sometimes, I’d just cry and cry,” Pritt says. “I was very lonely and very naïve.”

When Pritt moved to Culpeper, success was not immediate. She was laid off from jobs in fast food and retail; often, she baby-sat to earn what little money she could.

Frustrated, she turned to CHS for help. The organization enrolled her in a GED program, which allowed Pritt to resume her education and earn her degree. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) provided her with the resources to support her children.

The greatest assistance from CHS, however, she found in Sue Butler’s cosmetology program. The classes, funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), taught Pritt a variety of skills, including hair-styling, makeup application, and nail artistry. Pritt found the courses challenging. She adds that it was often difficult to balance her responsibilities as a worker, student, and parent; yet she found the classes to be truly rewarding, a source of inspiration.

“Mrs. Butler is a really good instructor,” Pritt says, her tone strong and respectful. “She’s a strict teacher, but she truly cares about her students and wants them to do well.”

Pritt has successfully completed the cosmetology program. She works as a receptionist at the Culpeper J.C. Penney beauty salon – a job which she enjoys and values for its aid in furthering her career.

Though once shy and dependent, Pritt enjoys a new sense of confidence. When she emphatically states that she can go as far as she wants in her career, her voice rings with strength; her still, erect posture reveals her newfound poise and independence.

“I could be a hairdresser,” she says with a smile. “I could be a makeup artist. I could even work in the movies. It’s all about what I want to do.”

When asked what stimulated such a great change in her life, Pritt’s response is immediate: “God”. A woman of great faith, she also credits CHS with having a tremendous impact on her life.

“Unfortunately, there are a lot of people who abuse the system,” Pritt says, referring to those who may take advantage of social programs. “But people should never abuse the system. When you’re in trouble, it can be your best friend.”

Arguably, the “system” has been kind to Pritt. She enjoys the new sense of independence which she has found in Culpeper and takes pride in setting a positive example for her children.

The woman abandoned by her parents recently heard one of her own daughters say, “Mom, I want to be just like you.” When asked if it is rewarding to hear that from her child, Pritt smiles. “Yes, it is.”

### Belinda Faulkner—gains a career with VDOT

Belinda Faulkner pauses. Her gold “I Love You, Mom” necklace sparkles in the sunlight which streams through the office window.

“What kind of person was I? I suppose I could be pretty nasty.”

The Culpeper woman then smiles and thinks of how things have changed: A pleasant lady, Faulkner is now a mature, confident worker and a conscientious mother to her seven children.

Faulkner was born in Charlottesville and grew up in Stanardsville, where she graduated from high school in 1982. For one semester, she studied at Germanna Community College in the hope of becoming a mechanic; however, an inability to find transportation brought her college career to a halt.

Faulkner moved to Culpeper without a job with which to support herself and her children. But she would not give up.

“It was sad to see people who wouldn’t help themselves,” she says.

Faulkner, however, was determined to get back on her feet. That’s why she turned to CHS.

Through its Wheels to Work program, CHS was able to provide Faulkner with regular transportation. The Department provided childcare, as well, allowing her to pursue a career.

Of great assistance to Faulkner was the VIEW program – Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare – which helped her land her current job in Madison with the Virginia Department of Transportation. She is fervent in her praise of VIEW.

“[The VIEW program] helps to show you how to be a better person,” she says. “It gives you opportunities and lets you discover your capabilities.”

Of CHS employees Lisa Houck and Maryellen Lombardi, Faulkner says, “They’re two of my closest friends. They listen and they really understand. They treat me like I’m their sister.”

Faulkner is equally grateful to her coworkers at VDOT, whom she describes as “good people. They treat me like family.”

And Jim Clore, Faulkner’s supervisor, speaks highly of her. “She’s an excellent worker,” he says. “She works as a flagman, janitor, and driver. She’s an asset to VDOT.”

The future looks bright for Belinda Faulkner. When asked about her plans, she smiles and says that home ownership is her current goal. With six of her seven children still living with her, there are many rooting for her success.

But the children aren’t the only ones standing in Faulkner’s corner – CHS continues to play an integral role in helping Faulkner.

“I have a new sense of confidence,” Faulkner says. “I’ve learned new ways of dealing with people. I try to put myself in their shoes.” She adds that she is a “better person” than she was before she came to CHS.

Faulkner states that her personal growth has made her a better parent.

She looks down at her necklace – a present from one of her daughters. Belinda Faulkner fondly remembers when she was given the gift: “My daughter said, ‘You’re the best mom that anyone could have. You teach us right from wrong. You punish us when we need to be punished. I love you with all my heart.’”

Culpeper Career Resource Center 540-727-1056 127 East Davis Street

# CULPEPER LITERACY COUNCIL

*WE ARE PROUD TO SPOTLIGHT TWO OF OUR MOST RECENT  
GED GRADUATES, MARIA VELEZ AND GAIL GRIGSBY!*

Maria lives in Culpeper County with her husband Jorge and her two daughters Floeese and Daniela. She works part-time for the Culpeper County School System as a bus driver and a substitute cafeteria worker. Two years ago she enrolled in the Culpeper Literacy Council's GED class. She juggled class and work and studied a lot at home. Although there is a GED test in Spanish, Maria decided to take it in English. Maria expects that having her GED will enable her to find full-time employment in the future. Congratulations, Maria!



**Maria Velez**



**Gail Grigsby on right with  
teacher, Sandra Kidwell**

Gail resides in Culpeper County with her husband, Kerry. She is a mother of four, Nickey, Kerry Paul, Samantha, and Will and a grandmother of two, K.P. and Billy. Two years ago, Gail decided to go back to school and get her GED. She had always wanted it but somehow, with children, jobs and family responsibilities, it was put off. Once in class, Gail discovered she actually enjoyed learning. It was a lot of hard work and studying and juggling family responsibilities to make time for it all. Now that she has her GED, Gail is considering several different fields of work and is looking forward to exploring the possibilities. Congratulations, Gail!

**The Literacy Council is currently seeking volunteers to work with our students. If you can read, you can teach someone else to read. Tutors work with adult students who wish to learn to read, improve their literacy skills, or learn English as a second language. We also have tutors working in the Culpeper jail with those wishing to obtain their GED.**

**501 North Main Street, Culpeper 825-5804**





### **Germanna Community College seeking additional funds for Advanced Technology Center Construction**

Germanna Community College is seeking additional funding to bridge the gap between the construction budget and the bids received to build the Center for Advanced Technology in Culpeper, VA. Dr. Frank Turnage, College President, announced that four bids were received to construct the building near the intersection of U.S. Highway 29 and State Route 3 in Culpeper. C.L. Lewis & Company of Lynchburg, VA, submitted the lowest bid at \$7,999,031. The bid exceeds the project's budget by \$2,030,963.

"All of the bids reflect the sharp increases in construction costs that are affecting the entire building industry," said Dr. Turnage. "In particular, the costs of steel, concrete and oil-based products such as asphalt have seen dramatic increases in the past six months. Labor costs have also become a factor, as the economy grew over the past year."

The College and its architects are working with the low bidder to identify cost reductions in the project. Redesign of the project is not an option since that would involve reducing the already minimal space for the training, educational and related activities envisioned at the facility. "We may trim ten percent of the gap through eliminating some requirements from the project, but that will not be enough to bridge the difference," explained Dr. Turnage. "Additional funding is necessary."

Sources will include private contributions and possible additional support from local governments that have previously allocated funds to the project.

"We must find the additional funding now to ensure the project proceeds on schedule," Dr. Turnage said. "The workforce and technology training services that this project will provide are needed now. Our plan is to begin construction this summer, and delaying it will only escalate costs even further."

Waiting for the possibility of additional state funding is not an option because that would delay construction by at least 18 months, Dr. Turnage explained. "Germanna needs to be operating from Culpeper in 2006 – not in Richmond lobbying for more state funding. That would only result in significantly higher costs."

Dr. Turnage expressed his appreciation for the strong support that local governments, businesses and citizens have provided throughout the planning of the Center for Advanced Technology. "This project has enjoyed total commitment from the community since its inception. It is important that the community maintain its support at this critical time."

**Individuals or businesses interested in contacting Germanna Community College's  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
may call 540-727-3088.**

## Culpeper County Public Schools

### “A New Consensus”

*By Larry Parker, Public Information Officer, CCPS*

Attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> Education Summit April 29 and 30 at Aberdeen Barn, I was struck when the 100-plus community leaders gathered concluded that the number one need of our school division was not money...or more teachers...or even new facilities.

Rather, they concluded that the number one need of Culpeper County Public Schools is ... more community engagement and parental involvement.

I remember simultaneously taking a deep breath – because earning that support must necessarily involve an increased workload and scope of duties in my own position – and then thinking, “Right on!”

So why did I have those reactions? And what did the Summit attendees mean by “more community engagement”?

First, I think it is fair to say that the Education Summit – which featured representatives from across the spectrum, including the School Board and administration, the Board of Supervisors, the Town Council, the business community, and other non-profit leaders – made clear that all residents of Culpeper County are stakeholders in the success of our public schools.

Anyone would admit this is true in an abstract sense, because society has a responsibility to educate the next generation. But in a concrete sense (quite literally), Culpeper County Public Schools have immediate challenges.

A detailed demographic study last year by the architecture firm VMDO, and a more informal survey earlier this year by the School Board’s Redistricting Committee, both show that Culpeper needs not only a new high school (and a renovated Culpeper County High School) but also a new elementary school (and a renovated Sycamore Park Elementary School) – likely before the end of the decade.

But what is needed can only happen if **everyone** in the community – including not just the groups who participated in the Education Summit but also retired residents, single residents, and businesspeople in Culpeper who live outside the county – agrees that such goals are important.

For while the school division believes new facilities – and the teachers to staff them – are needed to catch up with the recent growth and demographic change in Culpeper, there is no question that the new schools themselves will also change our community. And change – no matter how beneficial it may seem – is always wrenching and difficult, requiring sacrifice. So without a new consensus that change is needed, the new school facilities will not be seen as essential by the community at large. And if they are not supported by the community, they cannot be built.

The next question is, how can we build such a new consensus?

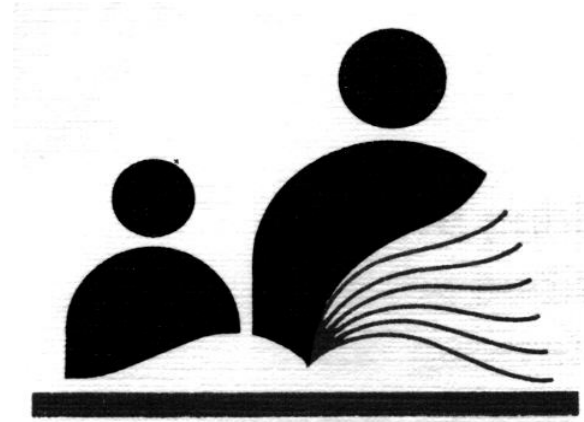
It has been well-reported in local newspapers that there have been vigorous debates on these subjects by both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors. I think we need to put those debates in perspective, though. What may seem to be disputes at first glance are, to me, actually a sign that our leaders – regardless of jurisdiction, regardless of political philosophy – are trying to forge such a new consensus by grappling seriously with the level of new commitment to our schools that Culpeper County and its citizens are being asked to make.

I was witness recently to an example of consensus-building on a sensitive school matter: school redistricting.

Parents in the Lakeview subdivision in the Town of Culpeper have been concerned because their elementary school children are scheduled to be moved this fall from the A.G. Richardson attendance zone to the Pearl Sample attendance zone. At a hearing of the Redistricting Committee May 18, the parents had the same message: Just tell us exactly why you feel this is necessary.

The Redistricting Committee, and its chairwoman, Gail Brewer, had a dilemma. Under the hearing rules, committee members were not supposed to respond back to parents’ comments – and therefore, could not give their reasoning for the proposal.

But committee member (and School Board member) Bob Beard then



came up with a Solomon-like (and Culpeper-like) solution: Close the hearing and invite the parents to talk one-on-one to Redistricting Committee members. After more than an hour of such a “town meeting,” parents in Lakeview still didn’t agree that moving their children to another school was the best idea.

But they **did** agree that the demographic data the Redistricting Committee had gathered showed school redistricting was essential to avoid overcrowded schools; and that the student achievement data showed Pearl Sample was an equally good school for their children to attend.

And more importantly in the long run, they agreed they needed to get more involved in the entire political process, to be involved early on in such major decisions in the future.

That’s why I think the Summit attendees were correct – because grand plans for new schools (and the teachers to staff them, and the money to pay the teachers) must have support from a broad spectrum of the entire community in order to ultimately become bricks and mortar.

So we need more forums like that facilitated by Bob Beard and Gail Brewer, to find creative ways to encourage community engagement to address our school division’s challenges – just as Gail comes up with creative solutions to children’s problems every day as principal of Farmington Elementary School.

Cultivating that spirit, I think, is the best way Culpeper can still be “Culpeper”, no matter how many new houses and schools are built here.

## **KID CENTRAL 2004 NEWS**

**"Great American...Legends"**

### **Summer Day Camp**

Summer Day Camp ended August 20<sup>th</sup>, and what a great summer it was! Kid Central made weekly trips, including destinations such as Yowell Meadow Park, Dominion Skating Center, Culpeper County Library and the swimming pool at the 4-H Educational Center.

Each two-week session took us on high adventures!

We went on a Potomac River Cruise, to Funland, Culpeper Farm Fair, Frontier Culture Center, The Brandy Station Carnival, Leesburg Animal Park, Shenandoah National Park, Chuck-E Cheese, the Movies, Putt-Putt Mini Golf and Splash Down Water Park.

A new added surprise this summer was a spellbinding performance by Joe Pipik of "Good Life Puppet", a presentation at Wolf Trap Theatre.

### ***KID CENTRAL Before & After School***

Excitement is now in the air! A new school year is just beginning.

Before & After School Staff at all 5 elementary schools have made plans to greet new students and to welcome back old friends.

**Before School Child Care:** Farmington, Sycamore Park and Emerald Hill students will meet in the cafeteria at their school. A.G. Richardson students will meet with the Pearl Sample students in the Pearl Sample cafeteria.

Before School Child Care opens at 6:30 a.m. and continues until school begins, Monday through Friday, at a rate of \$15.00 per week for one child. Activities include Group Games, Activity Centers, Gym Games (at some schools) and Homework Review Time.

**After School Child Care:** students will meet in the cafeteria or gym of their own elementary school and have a snack. Activities may include: Homework Club \*Sports \*4-H Clubs \*Kids Get Fit \*Karate \*Dance \*Newspaper Club \*Computer Club \*Free Art Time \*Small Group Games \*Gym Games \*Theme Class and \*Sports.

This year's Theme Class "Making Me the Best I Can Be", is based on a program introduced by Virginia Tech. Our focus during this time will include health, nutrition, good citizenship and character building.

Crafts will be projects focusing on these topics, as well as seasonal decorations.

After School Child Care begins from the time school is dismissed and continues until 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at a rate of \$35.00 per week for one child.

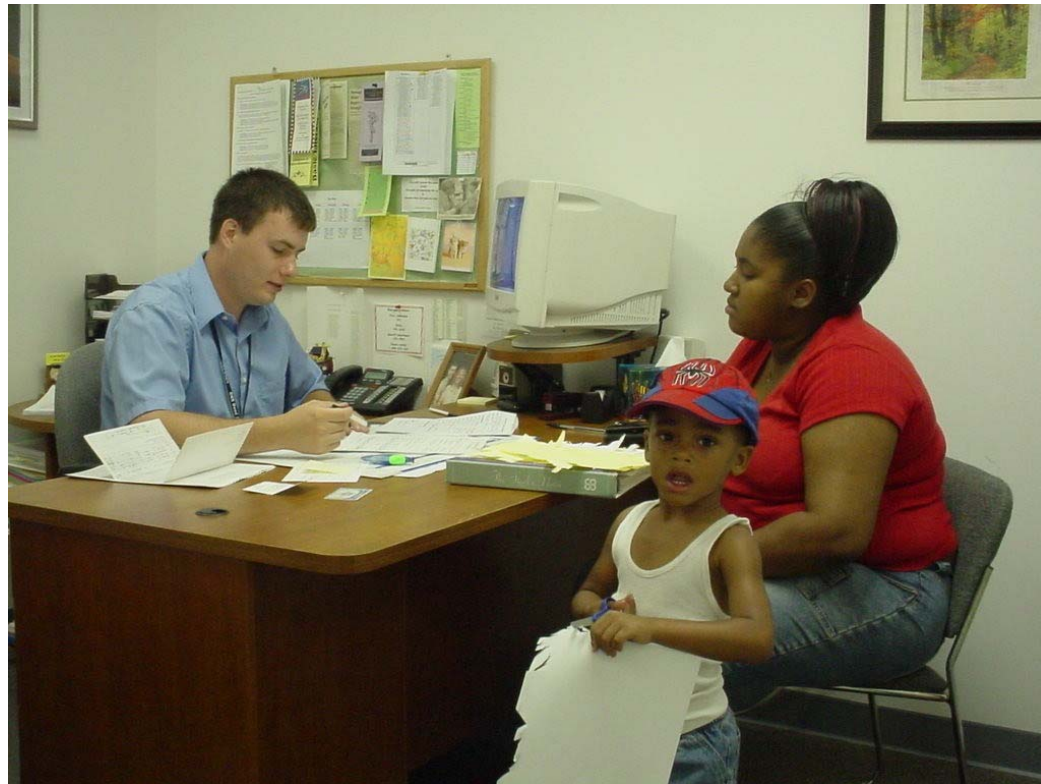
**Teacher Work Days & School Holidays:** students will meet at Sycamore Park Elementary School, 6:30 a.m. through 6:30 p.m. Planned activities include Special Events, Programs and Trips. Fees for 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. childcare are \$16.00 per day for one child.

**School Closings due to bad weather:** students will meet at Sycamore Park Elementary School. Times announced on WJMA, 103.1FM Radio.

You may register your child at any of the 5 elementary schools or call (540) 829-2124 for more information.

## Culpeper Human Services—Head Start

Summer has been a busy time at Culpeper Human Services Head Start. Family Services Specialist, Kelly Taylor, and the Family Service Workers are enrolling new children and families for the program year beginning in September.



Family Service Worker, Simon Fiscus, enrolls Quennell Tyree in Head Start. Quennell's mother, Ronnica Waters, looks on.

Once families qualify, based on income and/or special needs, the Family Service Workers, Wilma Morales, Deb Birkett, and Simon Fiscus acquaint the families with the policies and procedures of the Head Start program. They also make sure that parents are aware of the exciting social and learning opportunities for their children. All children participating in the program must have a physical and be up-to-date on their immunizations. Head Start serves 128 children in the program and provides free developmental and health related screenings for them.

There are several committees that parents can serve on while participating in Head Start: the Parent Committee, Playground Committee, Advisory Committees, and Policy Council. Members of the Parent Committee elect the parents that serve on the Policy Council. Parents on this committee actually have an active role in the decisions which affect the Head Start program. Policy Council meets once a month and reviews the programs' budget, curriculum, and approves position hiring for the program.

To find out more about Head Start, stop by the Galbreath Marshall Building, or call 829-2330. As always, volunteers are welcome.